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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/581,907	06/07/2006	Koji Miyagawa	2006_0871A	9226
52349	7590	08/03/2009	EXAMINER	
WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK L.L.P.			SHIBRU, HELEN	
1030 15th Street, N.W.				
Suite 400 East			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Washington, DC 20005-1503			2621	
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			08/03/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/581,907	MIYAGAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	HELEN SHIBRU	2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 June 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-20 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-19, drawn to “a recording apparatus for recording contents, said recording apparatus comprising: a drive unit operable to have a portable recording medium removably attached; a relief recording medium; an obtaining unit operable to obtain specification information which specifies one or more portable recording media to be used for recording a content; a recording control unit operable to perform control so that (i) in a case where one of the specified portable recording media is attached to said drive unit when the content is to be recorded, the content is recorded onto the attached portable recording medium, and (ii) in a case where none of the specified portable recording media are attached to said drive unit when the content is to be recorded, the content is recorded onto said relief recording medium; and a dubbing control unit operable to, in a case where one of the specified portable recording media is attached to said drive unit after the content has been recorded onto the relief recording medium, dub the recorded content from said relief recording medium onto the one of the specified portable recording media”, classified in class 386, subclass 124.
 - II. Claim 20, drawn to “a recording medium comprising: a piece of preset information for instructing a recording apparatus to record a content;

wherein said piece of preset information includes: program information for identifying a broadcast program for broadcasting the content; specification information for instructing that the content should be recorded onto said recording medium; and area information for specifying a preprogramming area within said recording medium into which only the content is allowed to be recorded", classified in class 386, subclass 83.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:
Groups I-II are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, invention I has separate utility such as "an obtaining unit operable to obtain specification information which specifies one or more portable recording media to be used for recording a content; a recording control unit operable to perform control so that (i) in a case where one of the specified portable recording media is attached to said drive unit when the content is to be recorded, the content is recorded onto the attached portable recording medium, and (ii) in a case where none of the specified portable recording media are attached to said drive unit when the content is to be recorded, the content is recorded onto said relief recording medium; and a dubbing control unit operable to, in a case where one of the specified portable recording media is attached to said drive unit after the content has been recorded onto the relief recording medium,

dub the recorded content from said relief recording medium onto the one of the specified portable recording media" which is not required by invention II.

Similarly invention II does not require the features of invention I as underlined above.

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. In the event that the Applicants elects one of the inventions, the Applicant is required to elect a single disclosed species corresponding to the elected invention and cancel or withdraw claims that do not read on the elected species (see the Species below). For Example if the Applicant elects Group I, Applicant is required to elect Species 10 or 9, and cancel or withdraw the claims from group I that do not read on the elected species.

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species I: Figure 3

Species II: Figure 9

Species III: Figure 10

Species IV: Figure 20

5. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

6. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HELEN SHIBRU whose telephone number is (571)272-7329. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, THAI Q. TRAN can be reached on (571) 272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/HELEN SHIBRU/
Examiner, Art Unit 2621
July 31, 2009

/Thai Tran/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2621